

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to H.B.5653 as it sets dangerous precedent for using the taxing system to penalize residents of Connecticut if they partake in activities that may be deemed to be unpopular by the legislature.

While guns and ammunition already are burdened by an 11% tax in addition to the Connecticut state sales tax, H.B.5653 would, if adopted, impose an additional excise tax on ammunition. During this period of extremely high inflation, this additional tax which retailers will surely pass on to consumers, adds to the existing financial burden of taxpayers and may well limit opportunities by some of the shooting public to practice and maintain proficiency with firearms. This appears to be contrary to insuring that those who participate in shooting sports are proficient and safe in the pursuit of their sport.

While Connecticut has enacted a host of restrictive gun regulations over the past several years, the imposition of an excise tax on ammunition, appears to be penalizing a single class of taxpayer. Burdening residents who participate in the shooting sports does not seem to be an equitable use of the tax system and will likely result in further disappointment by sportsmen already considering relocating out of the state. In the end, this sort of tax would be imposed on law-abiding citizens who would be financially disadvantaged by the acts of criminals.

Lastly, imposing an excise tax on ammunition will likely incentivize users to find alternatives to purchasing from local businesses thus jeopardizing the long-term survival of retailers while eliminating Connecticut's ability to collect sales tax on ammunition sold elsewhere.